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The DCI's Weekly Presidential Briefings

To amplify the daily flow of current intelligence provided in writing in the President's Daily Brief (PDB), the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) meets personally with the President weekly. In these meetings the Director discusses from one to a half dozen topics which for one reason or another can be better treated in a face to face discussion than in writing.

The topics are either substantive intelligence matters or pertain to intelligence operations. In the latter case the discussion would focus on providing the President a sense of the capabilities and limitations of US intelligence in support of him. For example, the discussion might focus on how the information collected from various sources is analyzed to estimate Soviet missile accuracy and what uncertainties exist in the estimates. In another case it might focus on agent

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placements in some region and the results that might be expected.

The substantive intelligence topics covered in the weekly meetings favor areas in which the President likely will face decisions in the next month or two. The briefings do not treat US policy options, which are developed in the NSC mechanisms, but provide a broad framework of foreign perspectives on the basic issues as background for eventual consideration of US policy options. Also the Director often seeks to explore geographic or substantive areas which are not currently in the forefront in order to illuminate the forces at work and to describe trends that might unfold in the next couple years that will present dangers or offer opportunities to the United States.

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